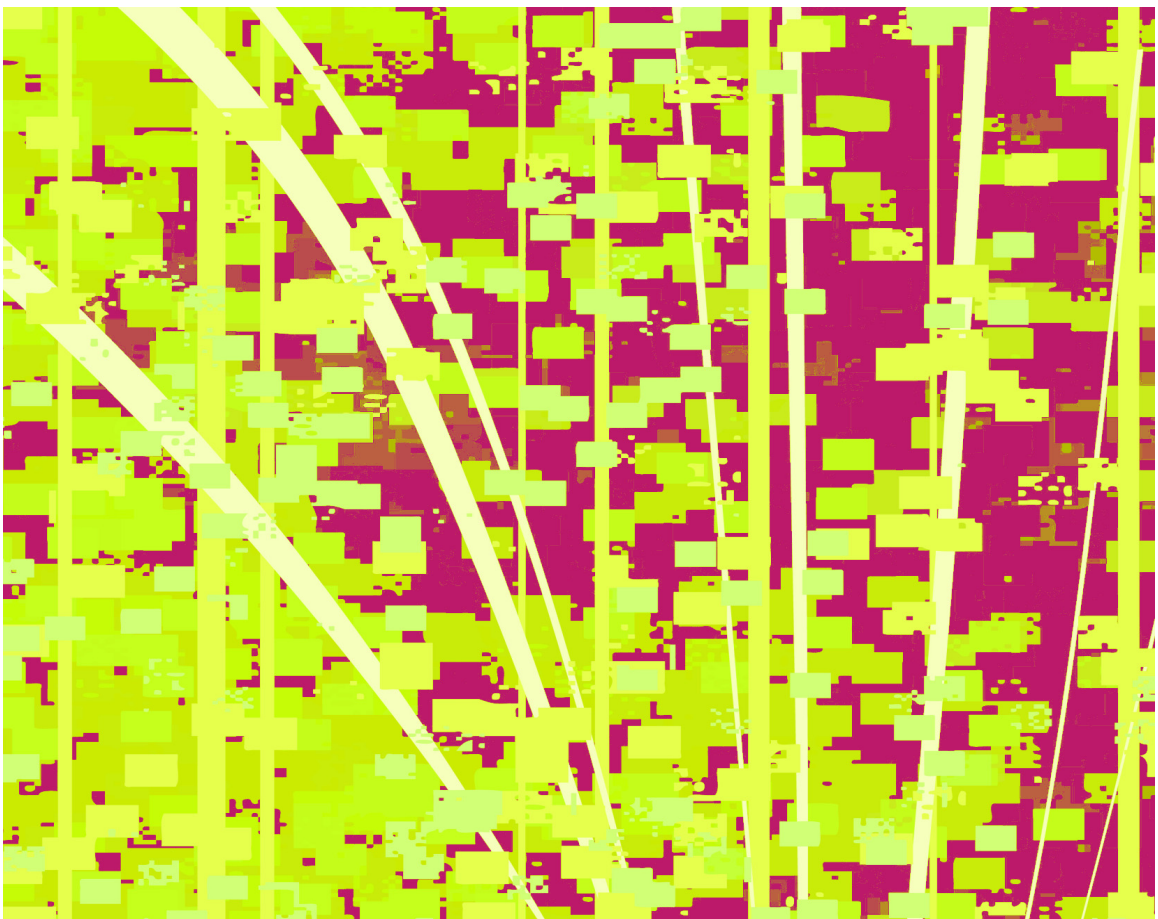


VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION

SERVICE AREA EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South



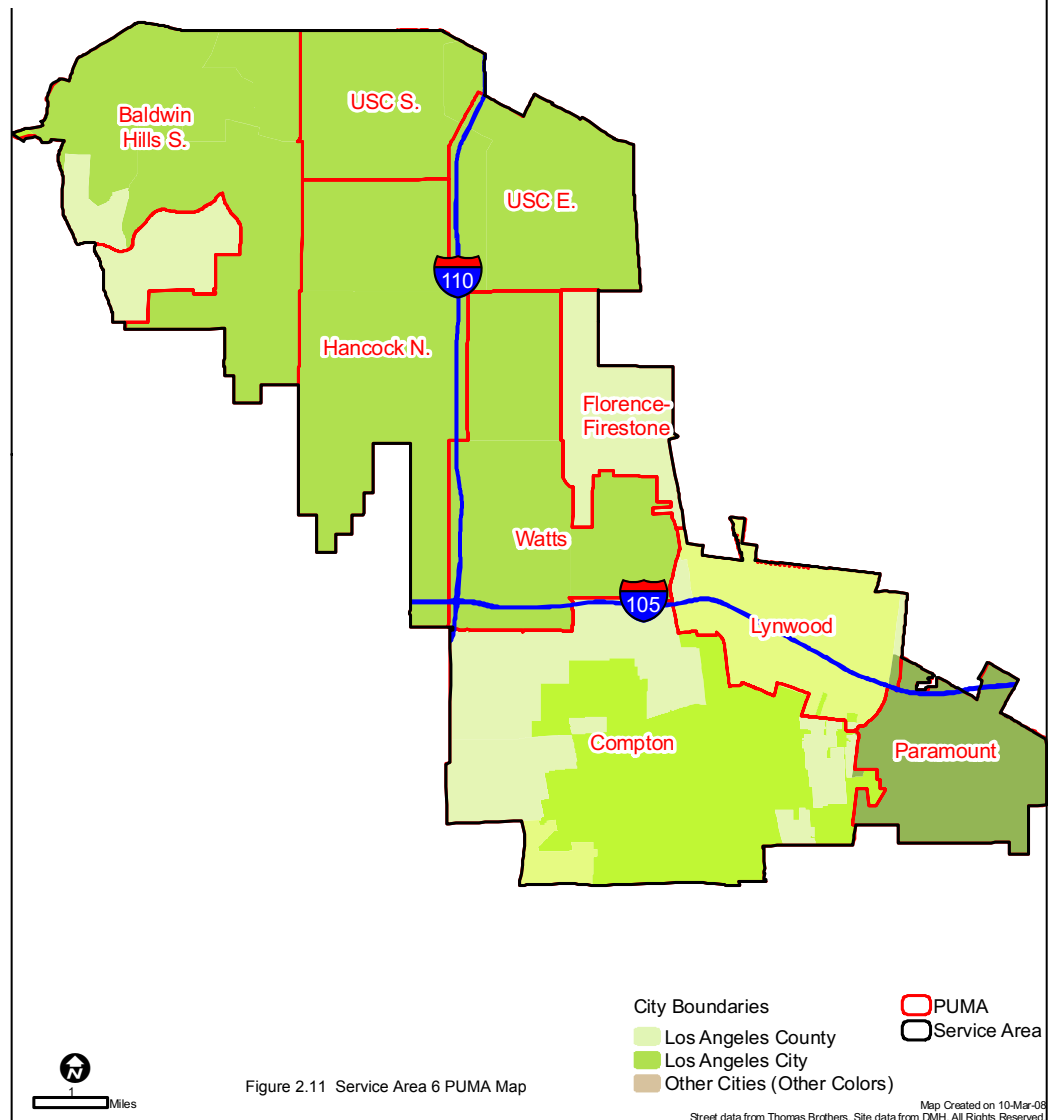
Service Area 6: South

Communities

USC S.
Baldwin Hills S.
Hancock N.
USC E.
Watts
Florence-Firestone
Lynwood
Paramount
Compton

ZIP Codes

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 90001 | 90007 | 90016 | 90043 | 90052 | 90062 | 90174 | 90221 | 90224 |
| 90002 | 90008 | 90018 | 90044 | 90059 | 90082 | 90185 | 90222 | 90262 |
| 90003 | 90011 | 90037 | 90047 | 90061 | 90089 | 90220 | 90223 | 90723 |



Demographic Profile

Ethnic Diversity: Latino Majority

The majority group in SA6 is Latino (65.9%), followed by African-American (28.2%), Western European White (2.8%), and Asian (1.6%). Russian, Iranian, Other Middle Eastern, South Asian, American Indian, Pacific Islander, and Multi-ethnic Individuals are other ancestry groups and number over 1,000 individuals. Latinos are the majority group in all the SA6 communities except Baldwin Hills S., where African-American's are the majority. Western European Whites and Asians are less than 5% of the population in all of the communities. Spanish is the primary language spoken in most homes throughout the service area. This is most evident in the communities of Florence-Firestone (81.9%), Lynwood (76.6%), and USC E. (73.5%).

Age Distribution:

Youngest Population in the County

A greater percentage of Service Area 6's population is 25 years of age or less (47.9) than any other service area in the county. With 30% of its population 0-15 years of age,

it is second only to Service Area 1 in the relative numbers of young children in the area. On the other end of the lifespan, there are correspondingly fewer older adults in the service area communities (10.0%). The USC E. community, for example, has an older adult population (60+ years) of 5.4%, which is quite a bit below the countywide proportion of 13.5%.

Economic Diversity:

Widespread Poverty and Lack of Assets

The median household income in the service area of \$30,576 was the lowest figure across the county and substantially below the county median of \$48,282. It is important to consider both median and mean statistics when examining incomes. The median or mid-point gives a better indication of the typical level of income reported by individuals within the service area. The mean or arithmetic average, however, is a better statistic to compare different geographical areas, such as between and across service areas. Mean incomes across communities were similarly depressed and well below the

county average of \$63,244. Mean household incomes ranged from the low of \$25,417 in the USC E. area to \$47,686 in the Paramount area. Home ownership of 39.6% was well below the county average of 48.9%. Only the communities of Lynwood and Compton had home ownership rates above 50%.

In terms of household size, the Watts (3.7 persons/household) and Lynwood (3.8 persons/household) areas had households that tended to be larger than other parts of the service area.

**Memory and Educational Attainment:
High Memory Problems,
Low Educational Attainment**

In terms of mental disability as measured by the ACS, 5.2% of individuals in Service Area 6 reported memory problems, above the countywide average of 4.6%. The Florence-

Firestone area had the lowest rates of memory problems reported at 2.3%, while the Baldwin Hills S. community (7.6%) reported the highest levels of memory problems in the service area and the county. Educationally, Service Area 6 had a college graduation rate of 9.4% (in adults 25+), well below the countywide average of 27.8%. The community of Watts had the fewest college graduates (2.6%) throughout the entire county. In other communities such as USC E., Florence-Firestone, and Lynwood, fewer than 4% of their respective populations were college graduates.

Key Indicators: Summary and Excerpts

Underserved Cultural Populations

Ethnicity

Service Area 6 is populated by a majority of Hispanics (65.9%), followed by African-Americans (28.2%); together, these two groups account for 94.1% of the entire population of the service area. Four of the largest African-American communities are found within this service area (the Baldwin Hills S., Hancock N., Watts, and Compton areas). Two of the largest Hispanic communities are found here, as well (the USC E. and Watts areas).

Primary Language

Primary Spanish speakers are the majority in Service Area 6 (56.7), followed by primary English speakers (30.9%). No other identified primary language group accounts for more than 1% of the service area population. Six of the composite communities have a majority of primary Spanish speakers (the USC S., Hancock N., USC E., Watts, Florence-Firestone, and Lynwood areas); one has a majority of primary English speakers (Baldwin Hills S.); and two have no clear majority. Only one community, Paramount, has primary language speakers accounting for more than 1% of its population: Cambodian speakers (1.0%) and Tagalog speakers (3.6%).

Linguistic Isolation

Service Area 6 had a Linguistic Isolation score of 10.3%, which was above the county-wide score, 7.8%, and second only to Service Area 4. Four of its composite communities had isolation scores above 10%, and the four were quite similar in their demographic make up: USC S. (15.1%), USC E. (16.2%), Florence-Firestone (14.8), and Lynwood (11.9%). All four areas are characterized by a majority of primary Spanish speakers and all have very few numbers of language groups other than English. There is little question that isolated households in the service area are primarily monolingual Spanish-speaking.

Individuals Experiencing Onset of Serious Psychiatric Illness

Serious Mental Illness Penetration Rate

The overall Penetration Rate for Service Area 6 was 0.32, very close to the countywide rate of 0.34. Along with Service Area 1, this was the highest rate seen in the county. Across service area ethnicities, Latinos (0.17) were the least-served by county mental health services. Following this, in order of Penetration Rates, were the Asian population (0.24), the Native American population (0.40), the African-American population (0.56), and the White population (0.83). Service Area 6 differed considerably from the other service areas in the relative rates across ethnicities. It is the only service area where the Asian population did not have the lowest Penetration Rate, and the only service area where the White population had the highest Penetration Rate.

Depressive Disorders

Age Groups

Service Area 6 accounted for 11.6% of depressed clients served in the county. Overall, a majority of depressed clients were adults, 26-59 (60.4%). This was the largest proportion seen for the adult population across all service areas. Examining the service area communities revealed that four areas treated a majority of adults: the Baldwin Hills S., Hancock N., USC E., and Compton areas. Three communities treated a majority of child (0-15) clients: the Florence-Firestone, Lynwood, and Watts areas. And one community treated a majority of TAY (16-25) clients: the Paramount area. Across the service area, 41.9% of all depressed clients were treated in the Compton area.

Ethnicity

African-Americans were a majority of depressed clients served in Service Area 6 (52.4%). This was followed by Latino clients, 34.3%, and White clients; 3.4%. Asian, Native American, and Pacific Islander clients each accounted for less than 1% of the population served in the service area. Examining the composite communities revealed that in five communities, African-Americans were a majority of depressed clients: the USC S., Baldwin Hills S., Hancock N., USC E., and Florence-Firestone areas. In two communities, Latinos were a majority of depressed clients receiving treatment: the Watts and Lynwood areas. No other community saw an ethnic majority receiving treatment for depressive disorders.

Co-occurring Disorders (COD)

Age Groups

Service Area 6 clients accounted for 8.4% of individuals with COD treated in the county's mental health system. Like other parts of the county, adults (26-59) accounted for a majority of COD cases in the service area (73.6%). This large proportion of adult clients was second only to Service Area 5. Differing from this, three communities appeared to have children (0-15) and TAY (16-25) groups as a majority of clients with COD (the Watts, Florence-Firestone, and Paramount areas), but the relative numbers of cases in these areas was relatively small (in sum accounting for only 2.8% of all COD cases in the service area). All other composite communities saw an large percentages of COD cases from the adult group. Three communities saw these figures greater than 80%: the Baldwin Hills S. area (82.2%), the Hancock N. area (81.8%), and the Lynwood area (82.6%). Across the service area, treatment for 49.2% of clients with a COD occurred in the Compton area.

Ethnicity

African-American clients accounted for a majority (63.0%) of the COD population treated in Service Area 6, the only service area where this occurred. Following this, Latino clients (21.9%) and White clients (5.8%) were the next most numerous ethnic groups represented. Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander clients each accounted for less than 1% of the COD population. When compared with population estimates, African-Americans (28.2%) appeared to be over-represented in the COD client counts; Latinos (65.9%) were underrepresented.

Children/Youth in Stressed Families

Poverty

Service Area 6 had the highest poverty rate within the county with 60.6% of its residents living beneath the 200% FPL. This is substantially above the countywide percentage of 38.7%. The USC E. community had the highest poverty rate in the county with 80.4% of its residents living beneath the 200% FPL. The USC S. area had the second highest rate in the county with 72.3% of its residents below the 200% FPL. The Watts area (65.3%) had the fourth-highest rate in the county. Poverty was widespread across all ethnic groups. The Hispanic population saw 67.6% of its population living below the 200% FPL; African-Americans, 48.3%; Asians, 48.8%; American Indians 48.3%; and Whites, 33.8%. The Hispanic population saw a majority of its population living below the 200% FPL in every service area community, a finding unique to Service Area 6. Over 50% of the African-American population in four communities were below the 200% FPL: the USC S. area (59.4%), the USC E. area (62.1%), the Watts area (66.2%), and the Florence-Firestone area (60.2%). For the White population, there were four areas, as well: the USC S. area (71.4%), the USC E. area (63.1%), the Watts area (100%), and the Florence-Firestone area (60.2%). For the Asian population there were also four areas: the USC S. area (76.8%), the Hancock N. area (53.3%), the Watts area (100%), and the Compton area (53.9%).

Unemployment Rate

Service Area 6 had a self-reported unemploy-

ment rate of 11.4%, the highest in the county and substantially above the countywide rate of 7.4%. Seven communities in the service area were characterized by unemployment rates well above 10%: the USC S. area (11.7%), the Baldwin Hills S. area (11.7%), the Hancock N. area (10.3%), the USC E. area (15.8% -- highest in the county), the Watts area (12.2%), the Paramount area (11.1%), and the Compton area (12.1%). Only the Florence-Firestone area (5.1%) had a self-reported unemployment rate below the county average.

Disrupted Families

Service Area 6 had a DF ratio of 2.0, which was slightly lower than the countywide average of 2.2. Of the named communities within the service area, four had DF ratios below 2.0 indicating greater levels of single parents for a given area: USC S. (1.2), Baldwin Hills S. (1.0), USC E. (1.8), and the Lynwood area (1.8). The Watts area (3.1) had the highest DF ratio in the service area; there, intact families outnumbered single-parent families about 3 to 1.

Safe Place to Play (Countywide Summary Only)

Age Groups

Across the three age groups reported, there appeared to be a trend in parent-report. Parents were more likely to report that a safe place to play was less available for older children than for younger ones

Ethnicity

There did not appear to be any significant difference between parent reports across ethnicities.

Trauma-exposed Individuals

Child Abuse

Child Abuse and Neglect Base Rates

Service Area 6 had the second-highest CAN Rate seen across service areas and several communities had very high rates. The Watts area (2.15) had the highest CAN Rate (along with Palmdale) in the county. Additionally, three other communities had CAN Rates that were greater than 84% or more of the county's communities: the Hancock N. area (1.66), the Florence-Firestone area (1.51), and the Compton area (1.67).

Triage Response Acuity

Service Area 6 had the second-highest Acuity score (0.23) within the county (whose overall score was 0.15). All Communities within the service area, save the Lynwood area, had Acuity scores above the county score. The Watts area (.32) had the highest Acuity score in the county. Other communities with very high Acuity scores included the Baldwin Hills S. area (0.22), the Hancock N. area (0.26), the Florence-Firestone area (0.22), and the Compton area (0.21).

Ethnicity

Across Service Area 6, 92.1% of SCAN Reports involved two ethnic groups: African-Americans and Hispanics. Overall, African-American children accounted for 42.1% of SCAN Reports and Hispanic children, 50%. Only two other ethnic groups accounted for more than 1% of the victimized children in the area: Mexican, 2.1%, and White, 1.4%. African-American children were a majority of victims in two communities: the Baldwin Hills S. area and the Hancock N. area. Hispanic children were a majority of victims in

five communities: the USC S. area, the USC E. area, the Florence-Firestone area, the Lynwood area, and the Paramount area.

Elder and Dependent Adult Abuse

Service Area 6 (3.9) had the highest APS Rate¹ among all county service areas. Three of the six most at-risk communities across the county were contained within the service area in terms of their respective APS Rate¹ scores. The Baldwin Hills S. area (5.8) had the highest rate found within the county, followed by the Hancock N. area (4.7) and the Watts area (4.4).

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Age Groups

Service Area 6 accounted for 13% of the county's PTSD cases. It was the only service area where adults (26-59) accounted for a greater proportion of cases than children (0-15). 46.2% of cases treated in the service area came from the Adult group while 38.0% came from the Child group. Examining the composite communities revealed that several did treat a majority of child cases, though their relative proportions may have been small (the USC S., Hancock N., USC E., Watts, Florence-Firestone, Lynwood, and Paramount areas). The Baldwin Hills S. area, which saw the greatest proportion of cases in the service area (32.9%), also saw mostly adult PTSD cases. The Compton area saw about a quarter of the PTSD cases in the service area and a large proportion of these clients were from the Adult group.

Ethnicity

African-American clients accounted for a majority (58.0%) of the PTSD population treated in Service Area 6, the only service

area where this occurred. Following this, Latino clients (33.0%) and White clients (2.5%) were the next most numerous ethnic groups represented. Native American, Asian, and Pacific Islander clients each accounted for less than 1% of the PTSD population. When compared with population estimates, African-Americans (28.2%) appeared to be over-represented in the PTSD client counts, whereas, Latinos (65.9%) were underrepresented. Examining the composite communities revealed that African-American clients formed a majority of PTSD clients in four areas (the Baldwin Hills S., Hancock N., Florence-Firestone, and Compton areas). Latino clients constituted a majority of PTSD cases in the Watts area. The Paramount area was equally split between Latinos and African-American clients.

Homelessness

Age Groups

In Service Area 6, annual homeless estimates for 2007 indicated that the 25-55 Age Group constituted a majority (64.0%) of the homeless population. This was followed by the Under 18 Age Group at 15.3%, the 56+ Age Group at 14.2%, and the 18-24 Age Group at 6.5%.

Ethnicity

Within Service Area 6, Black/African-Americans accounted for a majority of the homeless population (81.7%). Hispanic or Latinos accounted for 12.3%, Whites, 3.5%, and Multi-Racial or Others accounted for 2.5% of the homeless population.

Sub-populations

In Service Area 6, 32.1% of the homeless population reported that they had a mental

illness; 37.1% of homeless individuals reported they were substance abusers; and 12.5% reported they were victims of domestic violence.

Children/Youth at Risk for School Failure

4-year Dropout Rate

(Countywide Summary Only)

State figures indicated that over a quarter of all students in Los Angeles County drop out of high school over a four-year period. Examining ethnic categories indicated that African-American students were most at risk for not finishing high school, followed by Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic or Latino Students. 15.5% of White students drop out of high school. Two ethnic groups had dropout rates below this: Asian, 7.4%, and Filipino, 12.8%.

High School Graduation Rates

Across the county, Service Area 6 had the lowest graduation rate, 55.7%, or slightly more than half of all students. Four communities within the service area had overall graduation rates below 50%, indicating that less than half of all students in the area graduate. The most at-risk community, Watts, had a 35.8% graduation rate, the lowest in the county. Hispanic and African-American students were particularly at risk for not graduating. In the Watts area, for example, the graduation rate for Hispanic students was 37.6%; in the Florence-Firestone area, the graduation rate for African-Americans was 15.4%, or fewer than two students out of ten.

English Fluency

Across the county, Service Area 6 had the lowest English Fluency (52.7%) rate in its student population across the service areas. It was also the service area with the lowest high school graduation rate, as identified above. English Fluency in the USC E., Florence-Firestone, and Compton areas was below 50%. These areas had correspondingly low high school graduation rates (this was especially true in the USC E. and Florence-Firestone areas, and to a lesser degree in the Compton area.)

3rd Grade Reading Level

Overall, 15.9% of third graders in Service Area 6 scored at or above the 50th percentile in standardized reading tests. This was the lowest proportion of students failing to reach the 50th percentile across all service areas. Within the service area, the lowest reading scores were found in the USC E. area (10.4%), where about one in ten third graders were at or above the 50th percentile. Together, with the indicators listed above (e.g. service area 6 had the lowest high school graduation rate and the lowest English Fluency rate among the other service areas), Service Area 6 is clearly the most at-risk service area for school failure.

Children/Youth at Risk of or Experiencing Juvenile Justice Involvement

School Discipline

Service Area 6 had an overall suspension rate of 4.8%, which was above the countywide rate of 3.7%. The Compton (8.2%), Paramount (7.7%), and Baldwin Hills S. (5.6%)

areas had the highest suspension rates in the service area. Few students were expelled in the service area. The Paramount (0.4%) and the Compton (0.1%) areas had the highest expulsion rates in the service area.

Juvenile Felony Arrests (Countywide Summary Only)

Of the 23,787 youths arrested on felony charges during the reporting period, 84.2% were males, 15.8%, females. Ethnically, Hispanic youths were involved in the majority of felony arrests (57.2%) followed by Black/African-American youths (30.3%) and Whites (9.1%). All other ethnicities combined accounted for less than 4% of the juvenile felony arrests.

Youths on Probation

Camp Population

Across the county, Service Area 6 had the largest numbers of youth sent to camp: 567; the majority of these were African-Americans (55.4%), followed by Hispanic youth (44.2%). The Hancock N. area had the largest population of youth in camp (108) across the county. This was followed closely by the Watts area (98), the Compton area (94), and the USC E. area (87). Combined, these four communities had more youths in camp than any single service area.

Supervised Youths

Service Area 6 had the highest numbers of supervised youth across the county: 3,322. Of these, a majority were African-American (51.4%), followed by Hispanic youth at 47%. No other ethnicity exceeded 1% of the population. Three communities had over 500 youths under supervision: the Watts area (714), the Compton area (651), and the Hancock N. area (584).

Key Indicators of Stigma and Discrimination

Language Capacity of Mental Health Providers

Across the service area, Chinese speakers (52), Korean speakers (170), and Tagalog speakers (60) had about the same or more staffing resources allocated to them compared to English speakers (57). Of the language groups with over 1,000 residents, Spanish speakers (8) had the fewest staff resources allocated to them, even though Spanish speakers were a majority of the population in the service area. In five communities, there were fewer than five Spanish-speaking therapists/10,000 Spanish speakers.

Key Indicators of Suicide Risk

Deaths by Suicide

Service Area 6 had an overall suicide rate of 3.8, which was the lowest seen in the county. Even so, the countywide trends were still evidenced here: the highest suicide rates were found in Males, Whites, Adults, and Older Adults. Whites were most at risk in the USC S. (40.8) and Baldwin Hills S. (49.2) areas, African-Americans were most at risk in the Lynwood area (33.6), and Asians (38.2) in the USC S. area. The USC S. area (8.6) had the highest suicide rate within the service area followed by the Compton area (6.0).

Mental Health Emergency Statistics

Service Area 6 had the second-highest MHE-Rate (8.2) across the county. Two communities, the Baldwin Hills S. area (1,574) and the Hancock N. area (1,624), had more than 1,500 calls; two other areas had over 1,000 calls: the

Watts area (1,290) and the Compton area (1,176). Three of the five highest MHE-Rates across the county were found in Service Area 6: the USC S. area (10.7), the Baldwin Hills S. area (11.9), and the Hancock N. area (10.9).

